



COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



## Making a Mark

### COPS Partners with U.S. Conference of Mayors

Letter from Director Carl R. Peed  
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

January 22 – 24, 2003

The threat of terrorism presents many new challenges for cities both large and small. The COPS Office has been pleased to help America's mayors meet these challenges and protect their communities with funding for additional police officers, technology, as well as training and technical assistance.

As you know, a primary purpose of the COPS Office is the advancement of community policing. For a number of years the successful application of community policing principles has resulted in real reductions in conventional crime. These same principles can likewise provide an effective response to the threat of terrorism. By constructively engaging their communities, policing agencies have made their citizens active stakeholders in preserving public safety. As a result of empowering their citizens, law enforcement has significantly enhanced its crime-fighting capacity by increasing the number of people alert to criminal activity and willing to report it.

Another important weapon in the war on terror is technology. COPS grants help law enforcement agencies acquire, implement, and deploy technologies ranging from computer aided dispatch to mobile data terminals. The ability to share information quickly can make policing agencies better able to serve their communities and enable them to fight crime more efficiently.

While meeting the new challenge of securing our homeland, COPS continues to assist law enforcement in addressing conventional crime. For example, COPS' Value Based Initiative (VBI) helps cities strengthen relationships between local law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. The VBI in Boston, Massachusetts is dedicated to the successful re-entry of ex-offenders into the community. The Boston Police Department works with four faith-based partners in this collaborative effort: the Boston Ten Point Coalition, Nation of Islam, Ella J. Baker House, and Bruce Wall Ministries. VBI mentors meet with inmates while they are still in prison, then continue to work with them upon their release. A preliminary evaluation of this program already shows decreasing recidivism rates among participants in the program.

As your communities prepare to face these challenges, COPS looks forward to partnering with you to meet those challenges with community policing strategies. COPS funding has already helped more than 12,800 local law enforcement agencies serving state and local governments to make their communities safer. We at COPS look forward to working with each of you in 2003.

Sincerely,

Carl R. Peed  
Director  
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

## Snapshots

### COPS Facts

- ★ Invested a total of \$9.6 billion nationwide since 1994
- ★ Awarded more than \$1.6 million to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Institution for Community Policing, including \$200,000 in 2002
- ★ Awarded more than \$1 billion in technology grants
- ★ Awarded \$665 million under the COPS in Schools grant program since 1998
- ★ Awarded over \$223 million to combat the spread of methamphetamine across the country
- ★ Awarded over \$198 million to tribal law enforcement agencies nationwide

### Tell Us about It!

COPS values feedback from law enforcement practitioners, and we want to hear from you! Please send us an email letting us know about your successful community policing efforts to reduce crime. You can send us an email at [TellCOPS@usdoj.gov](mailto:TellCOPS@usdoj.gov) – we look forward to hearing from you.

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[www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)

## San Diego COPS in Schools

The success of community policing depends upon law enforcement professionals connecting with the communities they serve. In order to keep a community safe, law enforcement must build an effective working relationship with its youth. The COPS Office supports efforts to do that through its COPS in Schools program, which helps hire and train law enforcement professionals to work in and around America's schools.

The San Diego Unified School District permanently assigned full-time Campus Police Officers (CPOs) to each of its traditional high schools in 1996. Providing a higher level of service to the schools required an overall increase in patrol force, and several COPS grants – including COPS in Schools – helped make this possible.

The San Diego City Schools Police Department partnered with the County Board of Supervisors, San Diego Mayor and City Council, San Diego Unified School District, school principals, and more than 150 community partners to develop various programs

devoted to student safety, security, and wellness. These programs work to involve youth in the fight against gang activity and violent crime, vandalism and property crimes, and trespassing on school property. In the process, students learned to accept law enforcement professionals as partners, role models, and mentors. CPOs have delivered over 500 presentations, including stranger danger and bicycle safety at elementary schools as well as law and student rights, and law enforcement as a career at secondary schools.

When the project was fully underway, CPOs proved to be a vital community resource. The level of crime on school campuses dropped significantly. Relations between parents, staff, and students noticeably improved. Collaborative partnerships between police and community members continue to grow. The Campus Police Officer program is just one more example of how COPS grants can help dedicated law enforcement professionals improve the quality of life in diverse communities.

# Save the Date!

June 16–18, 2003 in Washington D.C.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Community Policing Conference:

# Working Together for Safer Communities

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Keep checking COPS Online at  
[www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)  
for more information!

## Crime Fighting Technologies: The Bits and Bytes that Bind



**T**he COPS Office has awarded more than one billion dollars to help state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies acquire, implement, and deploy crime-fighting technologies since 1995. Below are some of the ways COPS grants are helping American law enforcement secure our homeland.

COPS' Making Officer Redeployment Effective (MORE) grants often help American law enforcement agencies improve their communications capabilities. MORE grants fund projects ranging from mobile data terminals (MDTs) for patrol vehicles to more comprehensive and sophisticated systems like fully-integrated computer-aided dispatch (CAD) and records management systems (RMS).

A COPS MORE grant helped the Oakland County, Michigan Law Enforcement Consortium purchase a comprehensive information system that enables officers throughout the county to process and submit reports, access offender data, and conduct pre-bookings – all via mobile data computers from the field. Systems like this cut down significantly on time officers spend on administrative duties and give them more time to patrol their communities.

COPS Technology grants also help fund innovative projects like Chicago's CLEAR (Citizen Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting) system. CLEAR delivers information on more than 4 million arrestees with more than 30 data points, including mug shots and criminal history records, at the simple click of a mouse. Over 700 million data elements will eventually be available for use in crime and problem analysis.

Another COPS Technology grant helped St. Louis's Safe City project give citizens access to its crime mapping software through the Safe City website. This website graphically illustrates correlations between a wide variety of crimes and activities that might otherwise have seemed unrelated. An additional component of the system is available only to law enforcement agencies in the region, and it tracks the movements of parolees and probationers. This new functionality brings together partners ranging from information technology providers to the FBI.

As more agencies embrace community policing strategies, COPS is pleased to support an ever-widening range of projects to help them work together more effectively. The challenges and responsibilities that American law enforcement professionals face continue to grow and evolve, making crime-fighting technologies more important than ever in the fight to keep America safe.



## DVERT: When Violence Starts at Home

**D**omestic violence perpetuates cycles that can destroy families, produce criminals, and erode quality of life. The Colorado Springs Police Department met that threat with community policing. Colorado Springs' Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team, or DVERT, was born in 1987. After nine years of laying groundwork in policy and procedure development, DVERT received its first COPS grant in 1996. This grant not only funded DVERT's first test cases, but also partnerships with the District Attorney's Office, the Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence, and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Department of Social Science Research. DVERT now combines the resources of 25 community partners to fight domestic violence.

DVERT offers interventions through inter-agency cooperation. Projects like On-Call Response Teams, which provide 24-hour DVERT assistance, and DVERT Alert, which helps locate offenders wanted for crimes of domestic violence, address both victim and victimizer. A key element of DVERT's success is its emphasis on communication not

only between DVERT and those it serves, but between DVERT partners as well. DVERT works with community agencies to address domestic violence by:

- Protecting high-risk victims, including children and animals.
- Appropriately monitoring high-risk offenders.
- Facilitating local community policing initiatives.
- Providing specialized training on both the local and national levels.
- Supporting similar collaborative efforts in other communities.

Colorado Springs is in good company in the fight against domestic violence: in 1996, the COPS Office distributed almost \$70 million in grants specifically targeted at combating domestic violence. For more information about how DVERT meets the challenge of domestic violence with community policing, visit the DVERT website at [www.dvert.org](http://www.dvert.org).



## COPS Resources

**C**OPS publishes a wide range of community policing resources. The COPS Office works with some of the most innovative and respected names in law enforcement to develop publications designed to help with many aspects of community policing, as well as specific problem-oriented studies. From enterprise-level organizational issues to problems like stamping out graffiti, COPS publications can offer insights and experiences from others in the field. Browse through them in the Resource Room at COPS Online [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov) and download as many as you like.

### COPS Community Policing Resources Include:

- Mutual Respect in Policing (Video and Curriculum)
- Applying Community Policing Principles Post 9/11 Resource CD
- Tackling Crime and Other Public Safety Problems: Case Studies in Problem-Solving
- The Ethics Toolkit: Enhancing Law Enforcement Ethics in a Community Policing Environment
- SchoolCOP software and accompanying *Guide to Using SchoolCOP to Address Student Discipline Problems*
- Problem-Oriented Guides for Police Series, with topics ranging from acquaintance rape to rave parties

[www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)

## Documenting Police Innovations

**T**he COPS Office has invested \$9.6 billion since 1994 to add community policing officers to the nation's streets, enhance crime fighting technology, support crime prevention initiatives, and advance community policing. The COPS Office has awarded grants to more than 12,800 of our nation's 18,000 law enforcement agencies. In an effort to document and highlight accomplishments COPS Office funding helped achieve, the COPS Office is working with the Institute for Law and Justice to identify agencies for a new project entitled, "Reports from the Field: Community Policing Innovations."

If your agency has received COPS Office funding for any of the programs listed below and would like to be included in this project, please contact: Deborah Spence, Institute for Law and Justice, by phone: (703) 684-5300; or e-mail: [deborah@ilj.org](mailto:deborah@ilj.org)

- ✓ Hiring Grants (AHEAD, FAST, PHASE1, and UHP)
- ✓ Making Officer Redeployment Effective (MORE)
- ✓ Cops in Schools (CIS)
- ✓ School-Based Partnerships
- ✓ Tribal Resources Grants